

A FEW ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF ROSSEL ISLAND, LOUISIADE GROUP.

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WE have again received a collection of 190 skins collected on Rossel Island, in November and December 1915 and January 1916, by the brothers Eichhorn, during Mr. Albert S. Meek's illness.

A list of a former collection has been given in NOVITATES ZOOLOGICAE, vi. pp. 76-84, and a comparative list of the birds known at the time from St. Aignan (or Misima), Sudest (or Tagula), and Rossel Island in NOVITATES ZOOLOGICAE, 1899, p. 216.

Pachycephala pectoralis rosseliana Hart.

A fresh beautiful series of exquisite skins fully agrees with the types. Cf. *Bull. B.O. Club*, viii. p. viii. (1898); NOVITATES ZOOLOGICAE, 1899, p. 76.

A renewed comparison of the specimens from St. Aignan shows that the form from there must be separated from *rosseliana*. The bill of the St. Aignan specimens is thinner, slenderer, the yellow of the breast and abdomen evidently never attains the richness in colour shown in the true *rosseliana*, the back is lighter, not so brownish, more greenish, the lesser upper wing-coverts have less deep black bases and the primary coverts are less deep black and more edged with greenish. Wings of four males 93.5-95.6 mm.

We have only two females from St. Aignan, and, considering the variability, both according to age and individually, of the females and juveniles, we refrain from saying anything about them. We propose to call the St. Aignan form

Pachycephala pectoralis misimae subsp. nov.

Type: ♂ ad., St. Aignan or Misima Island, 29. xi. 1897, No. 1044, A. Meek coll.

We regret to say that the two *Pachycephalae* described by Ramsay as *P. collaris* from Courtance Island, close to South-Eastern New Guinea, and *innominata* from Teste Island, not far from the latter, are still unknown to us. Neither *rosseliana* nor *misimae*, however, can be one of them. *P. innominata* is described as having (♂) an ashy grey tail, and the crown schistaceous towards the nape; *collaris* is said to have the tail olive-brown above and the upper wing-coverts blackish, broadly margined with olive-grey. In both *rosseliana* and *misimae* the tail is olive-green, the entire crown pure black, the upper wing-coverts olivaceous green, not olive-grey.

Dicaeum geelvinkianum rosseli R. & H.

Dicaeum geelvinkianum rosseli Rothschild & Hartert, *Bull. B.O. Club*, xxxv. p. 32 (1914—Rossel Island).

A series of recent specimens fully corroborates our original description. Specimens from St. Aignan, on the other hand, are not separable from *D. g. nitidum* of Sudest Island.

Collocalia esculenta esculenta (L.).

Three adult females, January and February 1916. New for Rossel Island.

The throat and chest of these specimens is rather dark, similar to Dampier Island examples. Generally eastern specimens, from the Louisiade group, D'Entrecasteaux Islands, eastern New Guinea, and Dampier Island, are rather darker on the throat and chest than a series from the Moluccas and Celebes region, but Salomon Islands ones are mostly not very dark. We think that these forms cannot be separated, but wish to call attention to their variation.

Lorius (auct.) *hypoenchrous rosselianus* subsp. nov.

We had already half a dozen skins from Meek's former collection and have now received another six. All these birds differ from *L. hypoenchrous hypoenchrous* (terra typica Sudest Island!) in having the breast of a darker, more vinous red, about the same colour as the upper part of the abdomen, while in *L. h. hypoenchrous* the breast is brighter red, in distinct contrast to the dark vinous red upper part of the abdomen. This is easily seen when a series is compared, though a few Sudest Island specimens (three out of a series of sixteen) in worn plumage approach *rosselianus*. The latter is also averaging larger: the bills are, as a rule, bigger, and the wings reach greater length; this latter character, however, requires further confirmation, as half of our Sudest birds and a few of the Rossel ones are in moult, and thus not fit for wing-measurements. As it is we obtain from *L. h. hypoenchrous* length of wing 168-174 (mostly not over 170), from *rosselianus* 170-180, once 168, mostly about 173-176 mm.

Type of *L. hypoenchrous rosselianus*: ♂ ad. Mt. Rossel, 14. xi. 1915. Eichhorn Bros. leg. No. 6831 of the A. S. Meek collections.

? *Accipiter cirrhocephalus papuanus* R. & H.

Accipiter cirrhocephalus papuanus Rothschild & Hartert, *Nov. Zool.* 1913. p. 482 (South-Eastern New Guinea).

In 1898 we had a young bird which Hartert catalogued as "*Accipiter* sp. inc." We have now received another young bird, and both look uncommonly like juvenile *A. c. papuanus*, but old birds must be obtained to ascertain where they belong. Curious to say, both birds are marked as males, while they agree in dimensions with females, not at all with males of *A. c. papuanus*.

The following species must be added to the fauna of Rossel Island:—

Columba metallica halmaheira (Bp.).

1 ♂, quite typical.

Notophox novaehollandiae (Lath.).

1 ♂, 7. i. 1916.
